REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Claims 1, 2, 16-18, 20 and 24 have been further amended for clarification without in any way narrowing the scope of the claims. These changes have been made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended on November 7, 2000. Marked-up versions of Claims 1, 2, 16-18, 20 and 24 indicating the changes made accompany this Preliminary Amendment. No new matter has been added.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. **(Amended)** A catalytically operating burner **having a catalyzer structure**, comprising:

a heat-resistant carrier material that forms the walls of several adjoining channels that pervade the catalyzer structure in **a** longitudinal direction and permit a gaseous reaction mixture to flow through the catalyzer structure;

~~[wherein]~~

the walls ~~[are coated]~~ **being** at least ~~[in part]~~ **partially coated** with a catalyst;

~~[wherein between]~~

the catalyzer structure having an inlet end and an outlet end ~~[of the catalyst structure,]~~**, and** communicating openings ~~[are]~~ **being** constructed in the walls, through which the adjoining channels communicate with each other.

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2. **(Amended)** A burner as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising flow guidance means for redirecting at least part of the flow in one channel into an adjoining channel that communicates with the ~~[former]~~ **one** channel via the communicating ~~[opening]~~ **openings**, the flow guidance means being associated with at least one of the communicating openings.

16. **(Amended)** A burner as claimed in Claim 12, wherein ~~[the]~~ **a** zone of the catalyzer structure containing the inlet end is equipped with turbulators and is constructed catalytically inactive or inert;

~~[that]~~

at least one catalytically active zone is constructed in an area between the inlet end and **the** outlet end of the catalyzer structure ~~[at least one catalytically active zone is constructed so that]~~**; and**

a zone of the catalyzer structure containing the outlet end is equipped with turbulators and is constructed catalytically inactive or inert.

17. **(Amended)** A burner as claimed in Claim 12, wherein ~~[the]~~ **a** zone of the catalyzer structure containing the inlet end is equipped with turbulators and is constructed catalytically highly active;

~~[wherein,]~~

a turbulators-free zone is constructed catalytically active in an area between the inlet end and **the** outlet end of the catalyzer structure~~[, a turbulators-free zone is constructed catalytically active]~~; and ~~[wherein]~~

a zone of the catalyzer structure containing the outlet end is equipped with turbulators.

18. **(Amended)** A burner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier material comprises at least several layers, ~~[whereby]~~ each layer ~~[is]~~ **being** formed of a material web that has been **at least one of** folded~~[,]~~ **and** corrugated~~[, or both,]~~ in zigzag or triangular or rectangular shape, ~~[whereby]~~ the apex lines or apex surfaces of the folds ~~[and/or]~~**, the** waves**, or both,** in material webs ~~[adjoining]~~ **that adjoin** each other transversely ~~[in]~~ **to the** flow direction are oriented differently, ~~[whereby]~~ **such that** adjoining material webs rest against each other at the intersecting apex lines or apex surfaces and form channels between them.

20. **(Amended)** A burner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier material comprises a material web folded several times, ~~[whereby]~~ **wherein** the apex lines or apex surfaces of the folds extend approximately in the longitudinal direction of the catalyzer structure, ~~[whereby]~~ **wherein** planar wall sections are formed between consecutive apex lines or apex surfaces, ~~[whereby]~~ **wherein** adjoining planar wall sections extend parallel to each other, and ~~[whereby]~~ **wherein** the channels are formed between the adjoining wall sections.

24. **(Amended)** A process of using a catalyzer structure, comprising the ~~[step]~~ **steps** of:

providing a catalyzer structure including a heat-resistant carrier material that forms the walls of several adjoining channels that pervade the catalyzer structure in **the** longitudinal direction **of the catalyzer structure** and enable that a gaseous reaction mixture

flows through the catalyzer structure, wherein the walls are coated at least in part with a catalyst and wherein between an inlet end and an outlet end of the ~~[catalyst]~~ **catalyzer** structure communicating openings are constructed in the walls, through which the adjoining channels are communicating with each other, in a catalytically operating burner; and

flowing a gaseous reaction mixture through the catalyzer structure.